

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vacuum system comprising:

a flexible container having a generally rigid base wall defining a first end of the container, a generally elongated and compressible cylindrical side wall extending away from said base wall, and an opening disposed at a second end of the container;

a cap removably attached and sealed to the opening, said cap having a first coupler and including means for receiving a biasing force urging said cap away from said opening;

a helically wound spring disposed within said container and extending between said cap and said base wall;

an elongated tube connected to the first coupler; and

a valve communicating with the elongated tube.

2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

a second coupler disposed on said cap; and

a one-way valve communicating with said second coupler, said one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said second coupler back into the container.

3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a compressed gas powered vacuum motor connected to said second coupler.

4. The system of Claim 1 further comprising an expandable exhaust receptacle connected to said second coupler.

5. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a rigid base member disposed in the container between the spring and the base wall.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein the means for receiving a biasing force comprises a rigid cap member disposed in the container between the cap and the spring.

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein the spring is adapted to provide a biasing force capable of achieving a vacuum pressure in excess of about 29 inches of mercury.

8. A vacuum system for collecting, containing and disposing of material, the vacuum system comprising:

a relatively flexible plastic bellows container adapted to selectively attain an expanded configuration and a compressed configuration, said container having a threaded opening and a base wall opposite the opening;

a threaded cap connected to and forming a seal with the opening, said cap having a first coupler;

a rigid cap member inserted into the cap;

a helically wound spring disposed in said container and having a first end secured so as to be maintained adjacent to the base wall of the container and a second end biased

against the cap member;

a flexible suction tube connected to the first coupler; and

a valve communicating with the suction tube, said valve adapted to control the ingress of material through the suction tube into the container.

9. The system of Claim 8 further comprising:

a second coupler disposed on said cap; and

a one-way valve communicating with said second coupler, said one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said second coupler back into the container.

10. The system of Claim 9 further comprising a rigid base member disposed in the container between the spring and the base wall.

11. The system of Claim 10 wherein the spring is adapted to provide a biasing force capable of achieving a vacuum pressure in excess of about 29 inches of mercury.

12. The system of Claim 11 further comprising a compressed gas powered vacuum motor connected to said second coupler.

13. The system of Claim 11 further comprising an expandable exhaust receptacle connected to said second coupler.

14. The system of Claim 2 further comprising a second one-way valve communicating with the first coupler, said second one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said first coupler back toward the elongated tube.

15. The system of Claim 9 further comprising a second one-way valve communicating with the first coupler, said second one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said first coupler back toward the suction tube.

16. A vacuum system for collecting, containing and disposing of material, the vacuum system comprising:

a relatively flexible plastic bellows container adapted to selectively attain an expanded configuration and a compressed configuration, said container having a threaded opening and a base wall opposite the opening;

a threaded cap connected to and forming a seal with the opening, said cap having integrally formed first and second barbed nipple couplers;

a helically wound spring disposed in said container and having a first end secured so as to be maintained adjacent to the base wall of the container and a second end biased against the cap member, said spring providing a biasing force capable of achieving a vacuum pressure in excess of about 29 inches of mercury;

a flexible suction tube connected to the first coupler;

a valve communicating with the suction tube, said valve adapted to control the ingress of material through the suction tube into the container;

a first one-way valve communicating with said second coupler, said one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said second coupler back into the container;

a second one-way valve communicating with the first coupler, said second one-way valve oriented so as to prevent the flow of fluid that passes through said first coupler back toward the suction tube; and

a flexible exhaust receptacle connected and sealed to the second coupler.